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THE VARIETIES

OF THE

UNITED STATES CENTS

OF 1796.

AN ARRANGEMENT

BY E. GILBERT AND THOMAS L. ELDER
OF NEW YORK.

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1796 CENTS

GILBERT - ELDER ARRANGEMENT

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1796 CENTS

GILBERT - ELDER ARRANGEMENT

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1796 CENTS

GILBERT - ELDER ARRANGEMENT

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1796 CENTS
GILBERT - ELDER ARRANGEMENT

PREFACE.

The present popularity of the Hays-Frossard work upon the varieties of cents of 1794, and the recent discovery of an almost equal number of varieties of those dated 1796, has led me to publish this list of the known varieties of the latter date.

Owing to the close similiarity of some of the dies, this work has been more difficult than might be at first apparent. I cannot overestimate the help given me by two veteran collectors of this city, Messrs. E. Gilbert, and Henry C. Miller. These gentlemen have given much time and useful suggestions in the preparation of this work. My thanks are due also to Mr. Charles Steigerwalt for valuable hints.

In this edition are described thirty-three distinct varieties of cents of 1796. As new varieties may in the future be added to this already large numismatic family, I should be very glad to examine specimens with a view to issuing a supplement to this work.

THOMAS L. ELDER,

NEW YORK, September 6th, 1909.

DESCRIPTIONS.

CAP VARIETY.

A. Obv. L of "Liberty" touches cap; stand of T. close to and entirely over the fore-lock. "Liberty" distant from milling; date well spaced, 1 touching lower lock of hair, and 6 near bust. Pole close to bust with end distant from milling.

Rev. Left wreath stem has nineteen leaves and five berries, and the right branch has eighteen leaves and four berries, wide space between "One" and "Cent"; stem and ribbon-ends long. Last cipher of fraction too high. "A" "M" and "E" of "America" are connected at their feet.

B. Obv. same as "A."

Rev. The left branch of the wreath has twenty-one leaves and five berries, and the right twenty leaves and five berries. "AMER" of "America" connect at their feet, "N" and "E" of "One" touch at the top, also "ENT" of "Cent." There are five groups of three leaves each on the left branch of the wreath, and four groups of three on the right; the lowest leaf on the right branch points to the left foot of the final "A" of "America."

C. Obv. "L" of "Liberty" nearly touches the cap, and "R" and "T" of the same word are very close to the hair; stand of "T" partly over the hair and forehead; figure "1" of date near lower curl and "6" distant from bust, 1, 7 and 9 being well spaced with 6 near the 9.

Rev. Left branch of the wreath has nineteen leaves and the right has eighteen leaves with four berries on each; "AMER" of "America" connect at their feet; "A" and the second "T" of "States" nearly touch at the bottom; the lowest leaf on the right branch points to the right foot of the final "A" of "America", stem ends are long and slightly curved. Obv. known as the "open mouth variety."

D. Obverse same as variety "C."

Reverse same as variety "B."

E. "L" of "Liberty" nearly touches the cap. The stand of T is near, and entirely over, the fore-lock; the 1 of date is distant from the 7 and very close to the end of the lower curl of hair; the "9" is nearly as far from the 7 as the 7 is from the 1, while the 6 is quite close to the 9 and a little too high. There is a break at the end of the pole connecting it with the point of the bust.

Rev. same as variety "B."

F. Obverse Liberty, date and end of pole distant from milling, with the "L" very near the cap and "R" and "T" near the fore-lock. Date widely spaced and with clear field between date and bust.

Rev. Left branch of the wreath has nineteen leaves, and the right has sixteenleaves, with five berries on each branch. "Cent" low in wreath. "AME" of "America" connect at their feet; lowest leaf on right branch terminates directly under "C" of "America"; stem ends heavy. Legend distant from milling.

G. Obverse a very close copy of variety "C." By a comparison of the two pieces slight differences can be detected in the relative positions of 1-7 and 6 of date and the hair and bust. The pole is not as thick as on variety "C" and is farther from the bust.

Rev. The left branch of the wreath has twenty-one leaves, and the right twenty leaves, with four berries upon each; legend distant from milling, first "S" of "States" is low; the first "T" is joined to the "A" at the bottom; "AME" of "America" are connected at their feet. The stem ends are thin and club-shaped. The lowest leaf on the right branch points to the right foot of the final "A" of "America"; figures of fraction distant from the dividing line, the left branch of the wreath has five groups of three leaves each, and the right three groups of three leaves.

H. Obverse "L" of "Liberty" touches the cap, while "T" is more distant from the hair than any other variety known to me. The pole is distant from bust and extends nearly to the milling. Figures of date small, uniformly spaced and entirely detached from milling, hair and bust.

Rev. Legend close to wrth, many letters nearly touched by leaves, notably "UNITD" of "United", and "M" and final "A" of "America." Left branch of wrth. has 19 leaves and the right 18 leaves with four berries on each branch. Figures of the fraction small; the first "S" of "States" is too large; "A" and "M" of "America" are connected at the base.

I. Obverse "L" of "Liberty" nearly touches the cap and "R" and "T" are closer to hair than on any other variety that is known to me. The date also is very close to the lower lock of hair and bust, and gives the coin the appearance of a large head crowding the lettering and date.

Rev. Left branch has 18 leaves and 5 berries, the right branch has 17 leaves and 3 berries. The letters "U" and "N" of "United" are very close together but do not touch; the stem end at the right points to the right foot of the final "A" in "America"; figures of fraction small, with the enumerator too far to the right.

J. Obverse same as variety G. Reverse same as variety B.

K. Obverse same as I. Rev. same as H.

L. Obverse same as G.

Reverse, left branch has 19 leaves and 5 berries; right branch, 18 leaves, 4 berries, the 15th leaf on left branch, under first "T" of "STATES" very imperfect, in fact, a mere line; "D" out of position, leaning to right; first "S" of "STATES" low, bow coarse and imperfect, stems point to right of "A" and to left of "U".

FILLET VARIETY.

No. 1. Obverse In "Liberty" "E" and "R" joined at the bottom, date is straight, uniformly spaced, except the 6, which is very close to the 9 and tilted to the right.

Rev. Left branch of wrth. has 18 leaves and 3 berries, the upper one very small, and connected with the branch without a stem. Right branch has 17 leaves and 5 berries. "One" is high in wreath, the word "Cent" is low; First "S" of "States" is distant from "T", while "TAT" are very close together. In "America" "AME" are connected at their feet. Stem ends short, the right one pointing directly to the right foot of the final "A" of "America," and the left one to the curve of "U" of "United"; dividing line of fraction is long.

No. 2. Obverse "L" of "Liberty" slightly out of position to the left, "E" and "R" very close to the head; figures of date widely spaced, except the 6 which is a trifle nearer the 9 than is the 7, a die break makes the date appear thus, 17-96.

Rev. Left branch of the wrth. has 20 leaves and 5 berries, the right 18 leaves and 4 berries; the stem-ends are long and club-shaped, the one to the right nearly touches the right foot of the final "A" of "America," and the one on the left nearly touches the curve of the "U" of "Unit-

ed"; both branches terminate at top with a single leaf each, and as they point directly toward each other it gives the wreath an appearance of a perfect circle, and by this characteristic may very easily be identified. On many of this variety may be found a die-break from milling to "R" of "America"; thence along the top of "ICA" and curving upwards ends at the milling.

No. 3. Obv. "Liberty" very near the milling, the date is nearly straight and evenly spaced except that the 6 (which is a trifle farther from the head than on No. 2) is very close to the 9.

Rev. Left branch of the wreath has 19 leaves, the right 18 leaves, and each has four berries. The letters "TAT" of "States" and "AME" of "America" are connected at their feet, the lowest leaf on the right branch terminates under the left foot of the final "A" in "America."

No. 4. Obv. This obverse is very similar to No. 2 and can be distinguished from it by the position of figure 1 of the date in reference to the lowest lock of hair on the head of "Liberty". On this coin the figure 1 is a trifle farther from the hair than on No. 2.

Rev. same as No. 3.

On all the above mentioned numbers the wreath branches, both left and right, terminate at the top with a single leaf.

No. 5. Obverse, Letters of "Liberty" evenly spaced, a die crack extends from milling through the left arm of the letter "T", and stand of same letter to the fore-lock. Another die-break starts in the field to the left of the lower curl, passing along the lower edge of the curl, through all the figures of the date. The figure 1 of date touches the hair of lower lock, the 7 and 9 widely spaced with the 6 nearly touching the 9; a die-break runs from the bust to milling to the right of the 6 of date.

Rev. The left branch of the wreath has fourteen leaves and seven berries, and the right branch eighteen leaves and seven berries. "One Cent" is high in wreath. There is a die-break under the letter "E" of "United", and another to the right of "E" of "One", the wreath stems are slim and very crooked or twisted. The right branch is entirely severed from the ribbons and stem of the left branches, dividing line of fraction and stem ends are short, figures of fraction small.

No. 6. Obverse Letters of "Liberty" evenly spaced. There is a die-break extending from milling to head, passing through the letter "T" of "Liberty". The figures of date are evenly spaced, slightly curved and close to milling.

Rev. same as No. 5 but ribbon connected at bow.

No. 7. Obverse "Letters of "Liberty" large, close to milling and head, with but very little space between the letters; figure 1 of date nearly touches the hair of lower curl, and the 6 the bust. "On some specimens of obverse 7, a die-break extends through "BE" of "LIBERTY" to the hair, another die-break through 6, rendering the uppor part defective; two dot-like die-breaks between bust and date."

Reverse, The left branch of the wreath has 14 leaves and 6 berries,and the right 17 leaves and 7 berries; "One Cent" stands high in wreath, stem ends are short and club-shaped, that to the right pointing to the right foot of the final "A" of "America" and that to the left pointing to "U" of "United." This reverse resembles No. 5, of which it is a close copy, points of difference being as follows: One less berry on the left branch of wreath, and 1 leaf less on the right; the right branch forms a perfect connection with the left at the knot; under "O" of "Of" are but two leaves on this number, while there are three on No. 5; in the fraction the enumerator rests on the dividing line.

No. 8. This obverse can only be distinguished from No. 7 by the spacing of the letters in "Liberty." On No. 8 there is a much wider space between "I" and "B", and between "B" and "E" than on No. 7. In date the figure 6 is slightly tilted to the right.

Rev. same as No. 7.

No. 9. The LIHERTY variety. Letters of the word "Liberty" large and regular, and very close to hair and milling. The "B" has been recut over an "H" to correct a blunder of the die-sinker, which gives the word the appearance of LIHERTY.

Rev. same as No. 7.

No. 10. The obverse same as No. 9.

Reverse, The left branch of the wreath has sixteen leaves and six berries, the right branch has nineteen leaves and five berries; "One" high in the wreath and the "Cent" low; ribbon bows large and the ends are long and nearly reach to the milling; dividing line of fraction very short, the final "A" of "America" nearly touches the right ribbon end.

No. 11. Obverse "Liberty." There is a die break extending from milling at the left of the lower lock of hair through the curls and figures 1 and 7 of date, thence downward at a sharp angle to the milling; figure 1 of date nearly touches the hair and 6 the bust.

Rev. The left branch of the wreath has sixteen leaves and six berries, and the right branch nineteen leaves and five berries. Large ribbon bows detached from the stems, but not a sign of a knot; stem ends short; pendant ribbon ends long, the one at the right nearly touches the final "A" of "America", figures of fraction are distant from short dividing line. There is a die break extending from the border through "U and wreath" nearly to "F" of "OF".

No. 12. Obverse In "Liberty" "B" and "E" and "T" and "Y" are widely spaced, the 1 of date nearly touches the hair and the 6 high, and decidedly tilted to the left, nearly touches the bust.

Rev. same as No. 11.

No. 13. Obverse. The distinguishing feature of this cent, and by which it can be easily identified, is the wide space between the letters "R" and "T" of "Liberty". The date is nearly straight and has the appearance of being crowded.

Rev. The left branch of the wreath has 16 leaves, and the right branch 19 leaves, with 5 berries on each: the ribbon bows are large minus the knot, and the pendant ends long and sprawling; figures of fraction distant from short dividing line: final "A" of "America" nearly touches the right ribbon end.

No. 14. Obverse. This variety can easily be identified by the date which is straight, and the figure 6, which is tilted to the right, close to the 9 and connected with it by a small die-break. Between the 6 and bust is a raised point like a period, and between bust and chin, near the neck, are two more.

Rev. The left branch of the wreath has 14 leaves, and the right branch 18 leaves, and each has 7 berries: the legend is very near the milling, the letters of which are nearly uniformly spaced and fairly distant from the wrth. This reverse is a close copy of the reverse of the 1794 cents, having the high ribbon bows, knot and pendant ends, and the fraction near the milling. It is the only variety of the 1796 cents to have two berries immediately at the left of the bows.

No. 15. Obverse "Liberty" very close to both milling and head, the letters "E" and "R" nearly touch the hair; in

the date the figure 1 touches the hair, and the top of the 6 is merged with the bust; there is a crack in the die, extending from the milling near the 9 of date, to the left, touching the bottoms of both 7 and 1, and then the lower curl, and continuing on to the milling.

Rev. There are sixteen leaves on the left branch of the wreath, and nineteen on the right branch, and six berries on each; the lowest leaf on the inside of the left branch touches "C" of "Cent", and the lowest on the inside of the right branch touches the "T" of the same word. A peculiarity of this coin is a single berry on the outside of the right branch, under the letter "C" of "America"; figures of fraction distant from short dividing line.

No. 16. Obverse ER of "Liberty" closer to head than to milling; figures of date evenly spaced, except that 9 and 6 are closer than the other figures, the 6 is double-cut.

Reverse same as No. 10.

Note—This specimen is in Mr. Miller's collection, it is a superb uncirculated coin, and only one other known of this variety.

No. 17. Obv. resembles obv. 6, but "ER" further from hair and 1 of date much nearer curl. The die is badly broken over "Y" and along milling to "R."

Rev. same as No. 6.

No. 18. Obverse, same as No. 1.

Reverse, left branch has 16 leaves and 5 berries; right branch, 19 leaves and 4 berries; right branch terminates with 2 leaves, legend distant from milling; "D" low and out of position; first "S" of "STATES" low; lowest leaf on right points to left foot of "A".

No. 19. Obverse, same as No. 12.

Reverse, left branch has 19 leaves and 5 berries; right branch 18 leaves and 4 berries, a berry on each side of the

bow, letters of legend large and distant from milling, a leaf on left almost touches "D" of "UNITED." Fractional line long, reaching close to left ribbon-end; letters in "CENT" irregular, top of "N" higher than "E", and "T" leaning to right.

No. 20. Obverse, "LIBERTY" evenly spaced,with "ER" close to hair, date curved, with even spacing, 1 close to curl, and 6 midway between bust and milling.

Reverse, left branch has 16 leaves and 5 berries; right branch, 19 leaves and 5 berries, right branch terminates with 2 leaves; lowest leaf on right points to "C"; stems short, right stem pointing to right stand of "A"; left stem to the curve of "U"; "AT" and "AM" united at base; figures distant from fractional line.

No. 21. Obverse, same as No. 14.

Reverse, same as No. 5.

Note. In the LIBERTY CAP Series L, and in the FILLET Series, Nos. 19, 20 and 21, are from the collection of Mr. Pyfer, of Lancaster, Pa.

Additions to Cents of 1796 (Notes by G.H.C.)

No. 22. Obverse of 2 with the hyphenated date: 17-96. New reverse with 19 leaves and 4 berries on left branch and 17 leaves and 5 berries on right. Both branches terminate in single leaf as in first 3 reverses, but differs from either of them. (This may be same as No. 35)

No. 23. The obverse new and has what seems to be the widest date of all. The 6 is high and a die-crack extends from the back of the 9 through middle of 6 and then upwards through point of bust and a little beyond. Reverse of 5.

No. 24. The obverse new; the date compact, the 6 just a trifle high. LIBERTY widely spaced and T nearly clear of forelock to right. Reverse of 7. (Obv. 24 same as 20.)

No. 25. Obverse of 8 with reverse of 5. (or 6) A new combination.

No. 26. Obverse of 16, reverse 11.

No. 27. Obverse of 12, reverse 19 leaves on the left and 5 berries; 18 leaves on the right and 4 berries. AME of "America" connected, bow small and ribbon ends widely spread; stem ends point directly to right foot of A in "America", other to U. (Agrees with 19 or 37.)

No. 28. Obverse an exceedingly close copy of 8, the only points of difference being in date,- 1 closer to hair and 6 to bust. Rev. 6.

No. 29. Obv. and Rev. very similar to 23. A faint die break from milling to head, touching right foot of stand of I. In date, a break from knob of 9 to lower curve of top of same figure, also a short, downward break from back of 9 to 6, which is close to the 9, and tilted to the right. The 6 is not high (as in 23), nor is the break from 9 to 6 continued beyond the 6.

No. 30. Obverse similar to 15, but a greater space between milling and letters of "liberty"; also between 7 and 9 of date, and the 6 is not tilted as much to the left as on No. 15. Rev. 11.

No. 31. Obverse 7, reverse 5.

No. 32. Obverse 6, reverse 5.
M - obverse G., Reverse H (Granburg owner) note by E. Gilbert.
(These two Nos. written in by Gilbert.)

NEW VARIETIES OF 1796 CENTS

No. 33. 1796. Fillet. Obverse No. 2. Rev. There are 16 leaves on left branch with 19 on right, 5 berries on each. The leaves are in pairs on both branches, excepting at the left are two single leaves, and under OF there is a group on three leaves. Within the wreath, a leaf touches the stand of T in CENT, and on the outside of the right wreath 1 leaf almost touches the last A of AMERICA. Wide space between ONE and CENT, stem ends short, ribbon ends long, and one quarter of an inch between the extreme ends; 1/100 low and distant from the knot, in UNITED there is a wide space between I and T; TAT of STATES are connected at the base-line also AME of AMERICA.

No. 34. 1796. Fillet. Obverse No. 2. A new reverse. Reverse similar to No. 2, the wreath forming a circle as on that number, with the exception that the terminal wreath at the left side is a trifle above that on the right; this variety has 19 leaves and five berries on left branch, and 18 leaves and four berries on the right; the location of leaves and berries differ materially from number 2. In UNITED I is distant from both N and T, and final S of STATES is distant from E and larger than the other letters; the stem end at the left is distant from U, while on No. 2 it almost touches; stems rather short. (Three leaves under T highest runs to top of T.)

No. 35. Obverse LIBERTY close to both head and milling. The letter B distant from I and tilted to the right. Stand of T entirely above the forelock. Figures of date uniformly spaced except that 1 is distant from 7 and very close to the hair. Top of 6 very near the bust. Rev. Legend distant from milling, wide space between I and C of AMERICA. The lowest leaf of a group of three on the right branch of the wreath points to and nearly touches the right foot of A. In this particular it differs from all other reverses of the draped bust varieties of the 1796 cents known at this date, January 2, 1914. In STATES, TAT are connected on the base-line, also AME of AMERICA. There are 19 leaves and four berries on the left branch of the wreath and 17 leaves andfive berrieson the right branch; both branches terminate with a single leaf. C of CENT is smaller than the other letters, and in ONE, N and E connect at the top. (This is Obv. 2.)

No. 36. Obverse of No. 2. Reverse. The wreath has 18 leaves and 4 berries on the left branch and 18 leaves and 5 berries on the right, both branches terminating with a single leaf. In STATES the letters TAT are connected at the base-line, also AMER of AMERICA. T of CENT is smaller than the other letters. In UNITED, I is distant from both N and T. Figures of fraction distant from dividing line, which is long. The enumerator is very close to the knot. Under the first A of AMERICA is a group of 3 leaves on one stem - being the distinguishing feature of this number. C and final A of AMERICA are close together. On this specimen (the only known of this variety at present) there is a wave-like die break entirely across the reverse, passing through T of UNITED, the left wreath branch, the letters CENT, the right wreath branch and the last upright stroke of M. (I Laws perf. and broken Rev. G.H.C.)

No. 37. Obverse. Similar to No. 2. In LIBERTY there is a wide space between B and E, also between T and Y. The E is tilted slightly to the right, with its lower arm a little below the stand of R. In date the figure 1 is close to the hair but distant from the 7, the 6 high, slightly out of position to the left with the top out of proportion with the bottom. Rev. Legend distant from milling. There are 19 leaves and 5 berries on the left branch of the wreath and 18 leaves and 4 berries on the right branch. In UNITED the letters U and N nearly touch at the top. In STATES, A and second T connect at their feet, as do also A M and E of AMERICA. Right stem end points to the right foot of A. Lowest leaf on the right branch of wreath terminates under the center of C. The enumerator of fraction nearly touches the dividing line, which is long. (This agrees exactly with 1927.)

No. 38. Obverse. A close copy of No. 2. The points of difference being in the date - the 6 is further from the bust and nearer to the 9 and has a peculiar shaped knob. Rev. in UNITED E and D very close together; also TAT and E of STATES, and all the letters of AMERICA except I and C. There are 19 leaves and 4 berries on the left branch of the wreath, and 17 leaves and 5 berries on the right branch. The right stem end points to and nearly touches the right foot of A. The stem end at the left is

longer than the other and points to the curve of U. All figures of the fraction distant from the dividing line, which is long. The general design of this reverse closely resembles that of Nos. 2, 34, 35, 36 and 37 but differs from all of them in many minor details. (Single leaves at top.)

No. 39. Obverse. Similar to No. 8, but differs as follows:- Greater distance between figures 1 and 7, of date, also between the 9 and 6, with the latter figure much higher than on No. 8 and tilted decidedly to the right. Rev. No. 5.

No. 40. Obverse 5. Reverse 6.

6.N. New Liberty Cap variety. No. N. Obv. A. close copy of variety H. Visible points of differences: Greater length of pole shown between cap and hair. The staff closer to bust, with end of same further from milling. Measurements made with needle pointed dividers discloses many differences of 1/16 to 1/32 of an inch. Rev. same as variety E. (E=B)